The Report recognizes India's unique position as a world's largest producer of licit opium and as an important transhipment point for heroin from South West Asia and South East Asia. It mentions in positive terms of the high level cooperation between the Govern-ment of India and the U.S. Government. The positive remarks finding place in the Report is a clear vindication of India's efforts in the durg enforcement field and the initiatives announced by the Government with regard to licit opium cultivation.

The Report also lists out major accomplishments to the credit of Indian law enforcement agencies, particularly the narcotics Control Bureau and the Central Bureau of narcotics with regard to several measures taken to reduce illicit trafficking and diversion of licit opium into illicit channels, like:-

(a) raising the minimum yield of opium that farmers must deliver for the fifth consecutive year to the Government in order to retain a license;

(b) offences relating to embezzlement of opium by licensed cultivators treated on par with other trafficking offences under the NDPS Act and Rules;

(c) controlling availability of precursor chemicals with cooperation from the industry;

(d) setting up of three new zonal units at Chandigarh, Jammu and Ahmedabad by the Narcotics Control Bureau;

(e) proposed legislative measures to curb and prevent money laundering.

The Report also takes congnizance of the priority accorded to the coordinating activity of the Narcotics Control Bureau in the field of narcotics law enforcement and narcotics interdiction.

It may be mentioned that India has a Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the U.S. Government for reducing demand, preventing illicit use of and trafficking in drugs and matters relating to licit trade of opiates besides a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperative measures to increase awareness of and support for efforts on to combat production, distribution and use of illicit drugs. Periodical meetings of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group take place to strengthen narcotics control efforts of both the countries.

Closure of PSUs

1746. SHRI BAS DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down unviable Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details of such unviable undertakings; and

(c) the broad details of policy of the Government in regard to unviable undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Sick PSUs are referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for suitable decision.

(c) The policy of the Government on public sector undertakings have been spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme.

Disinvestment Commission

1747. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had appointed a Disinvestment Commission to advise the Government on how and in which Public Sector Enterprises dilute its stake to 49% or 26%;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for Joint Ventures in regard to loss making units and sale of some Public Sector Enterprises;

(d) if so, whether any concrete measures in this regard have been proposed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has been set up by the Govt., inter-alia, to draw a comprehensive long term Disinvestment programme for the Govt. and they are seized of the matter.

(c) to (e) The Government have already formulated strategies to restructure the public enterprises under the Ministry of Industry, inclusive of loss making enterprises. Under such strategies various options like joint venture, sale of specific unit etc. are considered on case to case basis. Implementation of the strategies is a continuous process.

Export Promotion Council, Gujarat

1748. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open offices of different Export Promotion Council (EPC) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to promote the export of various items-products from the State;

(d) if so, whether any amount has been earmarked for this purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.